



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

August
2005

The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291

August TDXS Meeting

Wayne Barker, AD8A, will talk about Winlink, Airmail/Sailmail and the various software that can be used for digital messaging in the ham bands. Wayne is EC for South West Harris County ARES.

Date: Thursday, August 11

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Tracey Gee Community Center

Address: 3599 Westcenter Drive

Directions: One block east of Beltway 8, between Richmond and Westpark.

Dinner before the meeting

TDXS members will meet for eats before the meeting, please join us!

Date: Thursday, August 11

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Le Madeline

Address: 10001 Westheimer, at Briar Park

In the Carillion Center.

As always, guests and visitors to be encouraged.

Calendar

Aug. 13 0900 Local Texas QSO Party Rally, Corner of FM249/Spring Cypress Rd.

Aug. 20 1800Z to Aug. 21 0600Z NAQP SSB

Sep. 8 TDXS Meeting Wayne Wright W5XD, Writelog author on Software and Contesting.

Sep. 24-25 Texas QSO Party

Texas DX Society Officers

President	Don Daze, N5DD	n5dd@arrl.net	713-464-7286
Vice President			
Secretary	Laurent Thomin, W0MM	tdxs@w0mm.com	
Treasurer	Bill Frink, K5WAF	k5waf@arrl.net	281-286-3330
Contest Chairman	Joe Staples, W5ASP		
Field Day Chairman	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
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DX Chairman			
DXpedition Chairman	Jim Carmody, NN5O		
Outgoing QSL Manager	Buzz Jehle, N5UR		
Webmaster	Steve Smothers, W9DX	cougar70@earthlink.net	
Bullsheet Editor	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf@houston.rr.com	281-351-8930

How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.net
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** direct or via **TDXS71** on 145.71MHz.
TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to
<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxx-list>

Buzz, N5UR, needs your help:

The Wireless Institute of Australia is has a QSL collection going back to 1920 but they lack examples from half the Texas counties. If anyone has old QSL collections from SKs or Dxpeditions, I would be willing to sort and mail them what they need. Also, if members have QSLs from the non-urban Texas counties they would appreciate examples. They also need a W50 QSL, but so so I! Thanks, Buzz/New Orleans

If you can help, please respond to Buzz directly.

HRes 230

I authorize the ARRL West Gulf Division Political Action Network to send the HRes 230 letter in my name to my Congressman in support of HRes 230 using the information that I have provided.

Full name _____ **Call Sign** _____

Residential Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

E-Mail Address _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

I authorize the ARRL West Gulf Division Political Action Network to send one follow up letter or E-Mail to my Congressman in support of HRes 230.

Your name and contact information will be used only for the above referenced action.

The Prez Sez: Don N5DD

Meetings. Last month we enjoyed Scott Robbins, W4PA's presentation about modern receiver design. I finally understand what 3rd order intercept and MDS mean! The H.E.S.S. Club facilities excellently suited our meeting, and most enjoyed the food and drink. The economics of meeting there are a little bit rich, and we will have to keep searching for alternative locations.

This month Wayne Barker, AD8A, will speak to us about WinLink. WinLink uses HF digital modes to send email to and from the Internet. This would be amazingly useful when regular Internet access is not available, such as camping, sailing in open water, or on a DXpedition to a remote part of the globe.

In September, Wayne Wright, W5XD, the author of WriteLog, will speak to us about software and station automation for contesting.

If you have a suggestion for a future meeting topic, please let me know.

Summerfest. Several TDXSers were at the Summerfest in Austin last weekend. I saw TDXSers NE5B, WD5KCX, WB5TUF and W5HNS. Other Houston hams spotted K5ENG, W5TXV, WA5QXE and W5ATP. In the DX and Contesting forum K4VUD gave his tale about surviving the tsunami with the VU4 team, it seemed more polished than the talk he gave at HamCom. K9DX and W0UN gave a fascinating presentation about K9DX's 9 element vertical steerable array for 160. The whole thing is remote controllable from his home 35 miles away.

Coy Day, N5OK, and David Woolweaver, K5RAW. Spoke at the ARRL forum at Summerfest. Coy is the director and David is the vice director of the ARRL West Gulf Division. One of the important governmental issues that the ARRL is currently pursuing is asking Congress to pass a resolution ordering the FCC to review the methodology they used and conclusions they arrived at when adopting current BPL rules. The ARRL feels that it is important for hams to write their congressmen about this issue. These days a letter sent via email or fax is much more effective than a paper letter sent through the postal system. More information about this resolution can be found on the ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/28/3/?nc=1>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/06/07/1/?nc=1>

It is always best to express your support in your own words, but you can use the sample letter elsewhere in the *Bullsheet*. Alternatively, you can authorize the ARRL to send the sample letter to your congressman on your behalf. To authorize the ARRL to send the letter, fill out the HRes230 form and give it to me at Thursday's TDXS meeting, and I will mail them to K5RAW. When filling out the authorization, it is important to fill in all spaces, and check the line at the bottom. If you can't make Thursday's meeting you can mail it directly to K5RAW at his callbook address. Please follow up on this important issue. If we are going to have to live with BPL we need realistic interference standards.

2006 Officers. Nominations for TDXS 2006 officers will open at the September meeting, and close at the October meeting, with elections taking place during the November meeting. Now is the time to think about who you would like to nominate to serve in an office. A club like ours is a collection of individuals. There are multiple roles and responsibilities that must be performed for the club to function. Each member has different skills and abilities to bring to bear for the good of the club [and for the good ham radio]. I would like to suggest that each member consider serving in one office for a year, at some point in their membership tenure.

SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. _____

As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator in your district and as a member of ARRL – the national association for Amateur Radio, I ask you to **support House Resolution 230**. This resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential of “broadband over power line” (BPL) systems to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio services.

BPL utilizes electric power lines to serve as the conductors of the broadband signals. Unfortunately, because the power lines are not shielded, they also act as antennas and radiate the signals into the air. These radiated signals will interfere with radio receivers tuned to the same frequency range. BPL has only been deployed to a very limited extent, but Amateur Radio already is experiencing severe BPL interference that the FCC has been unable or unwilling to correct. Unlike BPL, other methods of providing broadband Internet services to consumers, such as cable, DSL, wireless and Fiber to the Home, do not pollute the radio spectrum.

Last October 14, the FCC ignored the evidence that BPL systems will cause widespread interference and adopted rules for BPL deployment that provide inadequate protection to radio communication by First Responders and others who need reliable radio communication to ensure our security. The FCC needs to do what it should have done in the first place: fairly and carefully review this evidence and adopt rules that will keep interference from BPL within reasonable bounds.

Because we need no infrastructure in order to communicate, the Amateur Radio Service is the only 100-percent fail-safe emergency communication capability in the world. Interference from BPL emissions will significantly disrupt this capability. **Please cosponsor H. Res. 230 as soon as possible** to express your concern over the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio operators and to public safety licensees.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
(Email and telephone optional)

Maritime Mobile News de Cal, WF5W

New Marine screwdriver antenna w/ 102' whip. Its now onboard the good ship "Sea Pumpkin", Tuned up and ready to go. Interesting note: Using an RF meter to check each set of grounding devises, it was found we have significantly better radiation with radials on the deck than using the salt water as ground. How about that.!

CONTEST CORNER

Joe, W5ASP

Earlier this year I suggested that the TDXS consider picking a couple of contests in which we would make a club effort to produce a respectable score for TDXS. We managed to do pretty good job of it back in March during the WPX phone contest. I had thought that the NAQP contests this month would be another good choice, especially since a TDXS entry would only require five (5) operators. Unfortunately there appeared to be no interest in undertaking this ... the silence was deafening. Perhaps it was a poor choice ... mid summer and all that. However, there are still a bunch of contest opportunities remaining this year. We certainly ought to be able to find one that would appeal to a few sturdy souls in the group.

Looking over the Contest Calendar at our options, I quickly ruled out the Ten Meter (usually a great event, but probably it's too far into the cycle minimum to count on), and the two CQWW events (too intense and hardware demanding for most of us). That leaves Sweepstakes as probably the most interesting alternative. Since we did a phone contest in March, why not chose CW this time? This year it will start the afternoon of Saturday, November 5th. Plenty of time to get ready. Way back when, TDXS won several "gavels" in the Medium Club category and was a major player for many years. It might be fun to see how well we could do, if we really could get a "best effort" from those of us who still remember the code.

I can already hear the anguished cries ... the exchange is too long, the bands are too crowded, the contest is too long, the sky is falling But when one looks more carefully there are some often overlooked aspects of SS that in fact make it one of the easier contests even for the "non-contester".

1. Everybody is "needed", i.e. your call sign is "rare"; by Sunday afternoon anyone with less than a few hundred Qs will be top dog.
2. Low power with modest antennas are the norm. Yes, there will be the Big Guns but you'll hear them begging after the first eight hours.
3. It's strictly a domestic contest, i.e. lots of good solid signals ... all day, all night.
4. QRS and fills are the rule. And you'll be surprised at how quickly your code speed will pick up after a short period of operating. (I'm assuming that most of us did pass a code test once upon a time).
5. There's LOTS of mults ... 80 I think. so it's not at all difficult to get a reasonable score quickly. For instance, working 50 or more mults in the initial few of hours of operating is almost a certainty, and a S&P rate of 40-50 per hour (in your initial hours) can mean a score easily in excess of 25K.
6. There's lots of time to operate. Three or four sessions of a couple hours each (particularly on Sunday) can result in a really nice number to turn in for TDXS.

I'll leave it at that. It would help if those of you who might be interested would let me know. If we find enough folks willing to commit to say six hours of operating, we can start putting together an effort. We may have to get together and hang some wires, or find some spare radios, etc. but it is doable. I'll be listening.